



2006 DESERT PEAKS AWARD RECIPIENTS

PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS (Two recipients were selected in this category)

56th Fighter Wing Community Initiatives Team

With increasing pressure from urban development threatening Luke Air Force Base's mission of training fighter pilots, the 56th Fighter Wing Commander established the Community Initiatives Team. The multi-disciplinary team includes personnel with expertise in public relations, law, community planning and flight operations. The Team works closely with the Luke West Valley Council, which was formed to provide direct communication channels to local elected officials. The council includes 12 West Valley Mayors and representatives from Sun City, Sun City West, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, and base officials. The partnership of these two organizations has improved the process of communication with local communities regarding land use compatible with Luke operations. Their efforts have prevented further encroachment on Luke operations, allowing the base to continue to train 90 percent of the U.S. Air Force's F-16 pilots, and 50 percent of its fighter force.

Partnering agencies: City of Peoria, 56th Fighter Wing Community Initiatives Team, Luke West Valley Council.

Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project has been almost 40 years in the making. The original concept started in a university classroom and over time became a community-inspired plan to restore part of the once-flowing Salt River from a blighted corridor into an environmental and recreational amenity for the community. Phoenix Rio Salado is a 595-acre site located between downtown Phoenix and the South Mountain Park/Preserve. Thousands of residents and many government agencies were involved in shaping and funding this urban wildlife and habitat resource, which spans five miles in length from 19th Avenue to 24th Street. For more than a decade, the Rio Salado public partnership has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to restore native plants and wetlands. The first stretch of the Rio Salado in Phoenix was opened to the public in November 2005.

Partnering agencies: Audubon Society, Maricopa County, City of Phoenix, City of Tempe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Valley Forward Association.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

TGen/IGC Headquarters

The Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and the International Genomics Consortium (IGC) Headquarters is the result of historic collaboration between the public, educational, nonprofit and business sectors to further the goal of greater regional economic development and diversification. In 2002, the City of Phoenix and its partners formalized proposals inviting TGen and IGC to locate their headquarters in downtown Phoenix. In 2003, construction began on the \$46 million, 175,000 gross-square-foot bioscience research facility. The project highlights the City's commitment to creating a bioscience and biotechnology industry for the city, region, and state.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Disease Research Commission, Arizona Medical Association, Arizona State University, City of Flagstaff, City of Phoenix, Chase Bank, Downtown Phoenix Partnership, Flinn Foundation, Greater Flagstaff Economic Council, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Maricopa Community Colleges, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Northern Arizona University, Phoenix Community Alliance, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center/Catholic Healthcare West, St. Luke's Health Initiatives, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Salt River Project (SRP), State of Arizona, University of Arizona, Wells Fargo Bank of Arizona.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Don Hadder, Sr., Principal Planner, City of Scottsdale

Long-time Scottsdale employee Don Hadder has served as a mentor and role model for the planning profession for almost 30 years. His work as principal planner has resulted in landmark policy and regulatory documents such as the Sensitive Lands Ordinance, Native Plant Ordinance and Sign Ordinance—all of which have provided a standard for desert protection and preservation that is emulated by other cities regionally and nationwide. Mr. Hadder has crafted a number of documents that have had long-term regional benefits, including major wash protection ordinances, trails plans, scenic corridor preservation plans and streetscape concepts. Mr. Hadder has served on the MAG Planners Stakeholders Group for the past seven years. He has also served on the Valley Forward Trails Committee, on several Growing Smarter oversight committees, and as City coordinator for joint planning efforts involving the City of Tempe, Town of Carefree, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Chandler/Tempe Borderless WiFi Network

The City of Chandler and the City of Tempe worked cooperatively on the adoption and construction of a Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) network to provide for wireless broadband and telephony services to their communities. On one level, the network provides seamless connectivity to the Internet for Chandler and Tempe residents, businesses, students and members of the academic community. On another level, a private municipal wireless network is provided to benefit City operations in a way that minimizes the use of public funds and improves its capabilities for wireless business services, such as real-time inspections and the use of WiFi technology to maintain surveillance of high profile events for the public's safety. The network was made possible because Tempe allowed Chandler to model an agreement that would mirror its own, saving valuable time and money. The agreement creates a 110-square mile contiguous network, the largest such network in the country.

Partnering agencies: City of Chandler, City of Tempe.

REGIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS (Two recipients were selected in this category)

The Honorable Wendy Feldman-Kerr

Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Mayor of the Town of Queen Creek from 2000-2006, has displayed exemplary leadership not only at the local level, but at the regional level as well. As Chair of the MAG Regional Council from 2002 to 2004, Mayor Feldman-Kerr led the organization through a period of great transition. She was a member of the MAG Governance Task Force, where she championed business participation in the transportation planning process that led to the inclusive structure of the Transportation Policy Committee. Mayor Feldman-Kerr staunchly supported Proposition 400, which laid the foundation for transportation improvements in the MAG Region for the next 20 years. She promoted greater citizen involvement through the implementation of the first Regional Town Hall, and focused on increasing communication among member agencies. Mayor Feldman-Kerr began her service in Queen Creek after being appointed to the Town Council in 1994, and served three terms as Mayor. In addition, Mayor Feldman-Kerr has served on the Regional Arts Task Force, and served as Chair of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority.

The Honorable John Keegan

Peoria Mayor John Keegan has been a leader in promoting and protecting one of Maricopa County's most important resources—Luke Air Force Base. He has worked diligently at the federal, state and local levels to spare Luke from the base closure list. He worked with Arizona's congressional delegation to secure \$20 million in federal funding for land acquisition to buffer Luke and its flight corridors from encroachment. Mayor Keegan was elected Mayor of Peoria in 1997 and reelected in 1999 and 2003. Mayor Keegan recently retired with the rank of Commander from the U.S. Naval Reserve after 27 years of service in both the U.S. Army and the Naval Reserve. He served two terms in the Arizona House of Representatives. Mayor Keegan serves as Vice President of Operations for the Boy Scouts of America Grand Canyon Council and has served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission, the Morrison Institute, and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. He has been recognized with the Champion of Decency Award from the American Families for Decency, and in 2000, he was awarded the Arizona Planning Association's Distinguished Leadership Award. In 2001, he received the Maricopa Association of Governments' Distinguished Service Award.